

PAT McKERNAN

In Albuquerque's 63-year professional baseball history no one can match Pat McKernan for durability. The transplanted Easterner will start his 20th season as general manager of the Class AAA Albuquerque Dukes in the Pacific Coast League.

The 59-year-old baseball executive has been both president and GM of the Dukes since coming here in 1979 after serving as president of the Double-A Eastern League. Recognized as one of baseball's finest administrators and promoters McKernan has twice been the recipient of the coveted President's Trophy (1984, 1991) awarded to the minor leagues' top executive.

His fellow PCL general managers twice honored him Executive of the Year as Albuquerque has continually been named among the minors' Top 10 franchises in attendance, promotions and fan involvement. Sports Stadium crowds have been free of rowdiness while enjoying family nights catering to senior citizens, Little League teams, corporate groups and civic clubs.

The National Assn. of Professional Baseball Leagues (minor leagues) appointed McKernan vice president and chairman of its organization in 1976, '77 and '79 overseeing the administration and maintenance of areas governing the minors' ballclubs.

McKernan, a graduate of Niagara University, was formerly a sports editor and later a Massachusetts classroom teacher before deciding on a baseball career. He has been a club owner and general manager as well as president of the Double-A Eastern League.

The Dukes' working agreement with the LA Dodgers, one of baseball's best minor-major league pacts, has produced a bonanza crop of major league stars, including former Dukes who returned to the Sports Stadium as managers—Mike Scioscia, Kevin Kennedy, Terry Collins and Charlie Manuel—all of whom have reached the 'big's' as mentors. Credit McKernan for much of the success.

The Dukes' GM and wife Anne have seven children and three grandchildren...all of whom live and breathe baseball.